BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 14 | Humidity 43% Mostly sunny Sensex 84,666 | Nifty 25,839 | Gold 1,29,840 | Silver 1,83,230 | Dollar 89.82 | Euro 104.49 | GBP 119.61

Get More with Shorts

Your audience is discovering new creators Are you?

Brands, scan to know more

Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

YouTube Shorts

Get More with Shorts

80% Indians discover new creators on YouTube Shorts

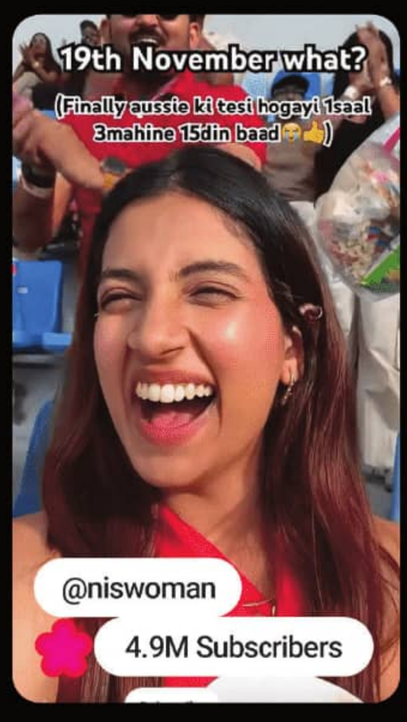
#GRWM

#nanobanana

#Thrifting

Brands, scan to know more

YTshopping



#makeuphacks

#desibaddie

Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

YouTube Shorts

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SECOND CHANCE

Impact of first restoration work fades, so citizens and officials give Kundalahalli Lake revival another shot with step to stop sewage inflow

PAGE 4

16:16
Departures
Page 1 of 3
STD ETD Airline Flt No Destination Status Gate
07:40 15:50 IndiGo 6E 702 Bhubaneswar Delayed 28
08:30 16:30 IndiGo 6E 5216 Mumbai New Gate 20
13:10 16:40 IndiGo 6E 5653 Goa (Dabolim) New Gate 22
13:30 16:50 IndiGo 6E 6507 RajKot New Gate 35
14:00 18:50 IndiGo 6E 5218 Mumbai Delayed 33
14:10 16:35 IndiGo 6E 6039 Delhi Delayed 12
14:20 18:20 IndiGo 6E 852 Dehradun Delayed
14:40 15:40 IndiGo 6E 506 Chennai New Gate
14:50 17:10 IndiGo 6E 6277 Patna New Gate
15:05 16:30 IndiGo 6E 6572 Kolkata New Gate
free journey",Free Wi-Fi zone. Log in to enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi for
ನಿರ್ಗಮನ
प्रस्थान

TOTALLY GROUNDED

Not just aviation sector, flight cancellations had ripple effect on taxis, courier services, hotels, tourism and local businesses

PAGE 5

They have served for decades, fulfilled mandatory service requirements, passed all exams, met higher-ups and submitted several requests, but nobody seems to care that there has been no promotion for assistant sub-inspectors in years

RANK INJUSTICE

350 police personnel in Bengaluru remain in same rank for over 20 years

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For police officers serving in the Bengaluru Police Department, change is very slow to come. Those serving as Assistant Sub-Inspectors are stuck in the same rank even if they have a service of 30 years under their belt. Despite repeatedly appealing to the department and even approaching several political leaders, there has been no movement in promotion, leaving them stuck in the same post for decades.

According to police sources, nearly 350 police personnel in Bengaluru remained in the same rank for more than 20 years, and approximately 600 police personnel in Karnataka are in the same rank with no movement in their promotion files. The primary reason cited is the recruitment structure in certain specialised units, where a significant percentage of posts -- that is around 70% -- reserved for direct recruitment, while the remaining 30% are filled through temporary transfers or deputation, leaving limited scope for internal promotions.

According to the affected officials, the assistant sub-inspectors (ASI), have fulfilled all mandatory service requirements, passed departmental exams, and met performance criteria. An official told BM, "Currently, graduates/postgraduates are joining the department for the post of Police Constable, and if they are promoted to the post of PSI at a young age, they will serve effectively. But currently, ASIs, who have completed 30 years of service in the department and have only five years of service remaining, are deprived of promotion."

"We have given our entire youth and strength to policing. We would understand if we had black mark, suspension or something, but even after clearing all the exams for promotion, we still haven't got a promotion," the official, who has served for 30 years, added.

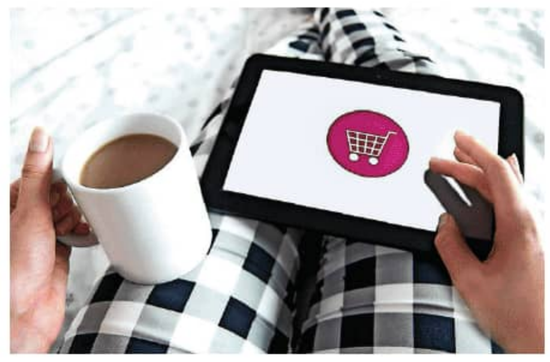
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

File photo of police officials conducting special security checks in city after blasts in Delhi

> **"We have given our entire youth and strength to policing. We would understand if we had black mark, suspension or something, but even after clearing all the exams for promotion, we still haven't got a promotion** —Police official

Don't shop till you drop into some trap

Bengalureans urged to stay alert as festive season scammers target shoppers



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With Christmas and New Year approaching, cybersecurity experts are warning Bengalureans to stay alert as phishing scams rise sharply during the festive shopping rush. Fraudulent websites and fake discount ads are being pushed aggressively, luring users with massive offers and emotional pressure tactics.

Experts warn that phishing kits use simple psychological triggers to make shoppers act without thinking. These include countdown timers, fake purchase alerts and bright warning banners that claim stock is running out. According to cyber analysts, these tricks create a sense of urgency that weakens judgement and leads people to share sensitive details.

PAGE 3: SOUR RELATIONSHIP

A Bengaluru based cyber expert said, "Scammers know that people are distracted during year-end sales. Their goal is to create panic so that the user completes the payment before verifying the site." Another analyst added, "Once you enter your card number or address on these fake checkouts, the data is immediately captured and sold on underground markets."

Dangerous domains

A CloudSEK report shows that several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Weekend vibes

Thaikkudam Bridge will be performing live, bringing their signature fusion of rock, folk, classical, indie, and world music in a high energy concert. **Where: Forum South, Konanakunte; When: December 13, 7 pm**

02 Into the world of abstract

'Beauty Isn't the Point: A Collection of Non-Objective Works', a solo exhibition featuring Chennai-based artist RB Murari's non-objective abstract works, focuses on emotional exploration and inner experience through form, color, rhythm, and silence. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until December 14, 10 am onwards**

03 Timeless music

Legendary singer Vijay Prakash will be performing live in an evening where music transcends time and emotion, as he returns to the spotlight with a concert that promises to be nothing short of extraordinary. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: December 13, 6 pm**

04 Colourful voyage

India Art Festival (IAF) is back in Bengaluru for its fifth edition, hosting a vibrant showcase of contemporary Indian art, bringing together over 20 galleries and 300 artists from 25 cities across India **Where: Crown Pavilions, Palace Ground; When: December 12 to 14**

05 Green celebration

Echoes of Earth, one of the most inclusive and community-centric festivals of the year, returns to Bengaluru. This year's edition features a dedicated kids' zone with interactive workshops, creative activities, and exhibitions designed especially for young explorers. **Where: Embassy International Riding School, Papanahalli; When: Dec 13 and 14**

Citizens unite to deliver warmth and hope

Volunteers from various organisations come together to collect and distribute winter clothing to individuals in need across city, as part of annual drive to help those exposed to winter cold without proper shelter

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As temperatures dip across the city, a coalition of service-driven organisations has stepped forward to protect the most vulnerable. The Indian Ploggers Army, Helping Heroes India Foundation, and the Robin Hood Army, in collaboration with the Sampige Foundation, launched their annual blanket and winter wear distribution drive on Monday night. The volunteers distributed blankets between 11 pm and 1 am.

The campaign began at Yeshwanthpur Railway Station and surrounding areas, where more than 500 blankets were distributed to individuals sleeping on railway platforms, footpaths, and temporary shelters. This marks the start of a larger effort to provide warmth and dignity to those exposed to the cold nights across Bengaluru.

The initiative highlights compassion, sustainability, and collective action, reminding us that true warmth lies not only in clothing but in the kindness one offers to others.

"Every year, our volunteers and partners come together to collect and distribute winter wear, blankets, sweaters, jackets, and other essentials to ensure that no one is left vulnerable to the cold," said Younes Matheen, Founder of Helping Heroes India Foundation. He said the initiative is more than a drive, it is a celebration of compassion and community. "Each donated item carries with it the spirit of dignity and care, reminding us that warmth is not only found in clothing but in the kindness we extend to one another," said Matheen. Plog Raja hailed it as a warm gesture amid the cold season, noting that re homing and decluttering embody a charity with eco friendly values. "Let us think of sustainability and work towards a healthy and clean neighborhood," he said.

Volunteers distributing blanket to needy people on Monday night

Initiative highlights compassion, sustainability, and collective action, with reminder that true warmth lies not only in clothing but in kindness one offers to others

Vasanthi, a volunteer, noted that many from economically weaker sections were struggling without proper winter wear due to the sudden temperature drop. She collected sweaters and jackets from donors in her neighbourhood for distribution by the teams.

Kiran Yadav, Founder of Sampige Foundation, said the initiative is very close to volunteers' hearts because it allows them to directly reach out and support people who truly need help. "We are committed to continuing this project and expanding its impact in the coming days," said Yadav.

Residents, officials reclaim long-encroached footpath

After nearly three years of persistent efforts, residents of Cooke Town, supported by officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), have finally succeeded in clearing the long-encroached footpaths along MM Road. A line of fruit and vegetable vendors had occupied the pavement for years, forcing pedestrians—especially students from the neighbouring government college—to walk on the busy carriageway.

Repeated appeals from residents went unheard, largely because vendors were reluctant to move into the formal market space where rent is mandatory. "Inside the market they have to pay rent, but outside there's no rent, so many simply stayed put. With the space narrowing and traffic increasing on MM Road, pedestrian movement had become unsafe," said resident and Citizens' Forum secretary Sanjodh Srinivasan.

Working collectively, members of the Sarvagnagar (Cox Town) Citizens' Forum, led by Srinivasan and president Padmanabhan, collaborated with GBA officials and traffic police personnel under Inspector Dhanraj to find a long-term solution. After discussions with stakeholders, a dedicated vending zone under the Coles Road flyover was finalised.

On Tuesday, authorities helped shift the vendors to the new zone and cleared the encroached pathway. Residents say the move is a win-win—pedestrians now have a safe, unobstructed footpath, and vendors operate from a unified spot without rental burden. The Citizens' Forum now plans to beautify the cleared stretch and tidy the garbage-prone space under the flyover. — BMB

That time of the year when scams come calling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

scam domains become active around Black Friday, Cyber Monday and December festive sales. These include sites mimicking known electronics brands with names like xiaomidea.shop, samsungsafe.shop, seagatesafe.shop and others. They are built to steal billing information, personal ID details and complete credit card data. Experts point out that victims usually reach these scam stores not by accident but through manipulated Google search results, WhatsApp and Telegram spam and short lived Meta ads promising heavy discounts. Traffic to these sites is deliberately engineered.

Officials advise people to stick to official apps or trusted websites while shopping. Searching for payment pages on Google can lead to lookalike scam portals. Domain spellings must be checked carefully since even a minor error can be a sign of fraud. "Shoppers should never trust countdown clocks or pop ups claiming someone just purchased an item. Unreal discounts, poorly written descriptions and rushed messaging are strong warning signs. When in doubt, users should return to the brand's official page instead of following ads or forwarded links. With the festive season in full swing, experts say that awareness is the strongest defence. Staying cautious can ensure that celebrations remain safe and trouble free," said a cyber expert.

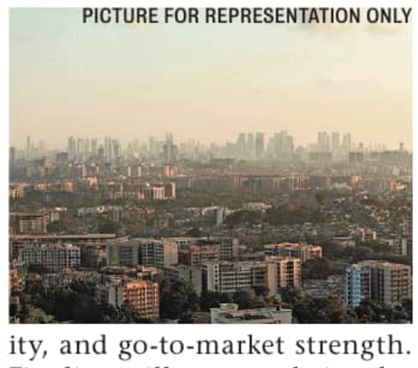
Over 40 lives lost due to gas geyser accidents since 2019

Gas geyser leaks are increasingly becoming a deadly hazard in Karnataka, with 40 people losing their lives in 32 reported incidents between 2019 and 2023. The latest tragedy occurred on Monday in Panchsheel Nagar, Govindarajanagar, where a mother, Chandini (30), and her four-year-old daughter Yuvi were killed after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes while taking a bath. The bathroom door and windows were closed, trapping the lethal gas, officials said. Year-wise data shows a sharp rise in such accidents: one death in 2019, two in 2020, 15 in 2021, 12 in 2022, and 10 in 2023, with seven people injured over the five years. Police report that complaints regarding geyser-related mishaps have been steadily increasing. In one recent case, Coimbatore resident Sreenivas D was rendered unconscious due to a geyser leak at home. — BMB

Top 15 startups selected to combat B'luru's climate woes

UnboxingBLR, in partnership with Social Alpha and WTFund, supported by the Government of Karnataka and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has unveiled the top 15 startups shortlisted for the Namma Bengaluru Challenge '26 (NBC '26). Selected from nearly 600 applications, the finalists offer high-impact solutions to Bengaluru's most pressing climate issues across Waste Management, Water & Sanitation, Sustainable Construction, and Air Pollution.

The shortlisted startups will now undergo a detailed technical evaluation by an expert jury assessing innovation, feasibility, and go-to-market strength. Finalists will present their solutions live on January 24, 2026, competing for implementation grants of up to Rs 25 lakh each.



PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Winning startups will also receive essential support for six-month pilot deployments in Bengaluru, facilitated through partnerships with government bodies, private organisations, and civil society groups aimed at accelerating scalable, real-world climate innovations for the city. — BMB

Bank's 'relationship manager' turns out to be fraudster

Fake relationship manager uses official-looking communication to trick longtime customer into depositing huge sums, revealing major vulnerability within banking systems

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A 66-year-old from Bengaluru, a loyal customer of a multinational bank for over two decades, has filed a police complaint alleging he was cheated of ₹1.31 crore by a man introduced to him as his official 'Relationship Manager' through what appeared to be a legitimate bank communication. The FIR with the Halasuru Police reveals a pattern of an alleged insider-driven financial scam targeting elderly customers through fake investment bonds, posing questions on institutional safeguards in the banking sector.

The complainant, a resident of Ramamurthy Nagar, stated that in 2020 he received an email from the bank informing him that one Kishore Nakka had been assigned as his new Relationship Manager. Soon after, Nakka contacted him, offering investment advice and encouraging him to place funds in high-value bonds.

For years, the complainant deposited cheques and transferred money through RTGS, believing he was making secure investments through his bank. Between May 2022 and October 2025, he invested large sums based on Nakka's advice.

In 2025 alone, Nakka handed over four high-value investment bonds to the complainant, worth ₹60 lakh, ₹15 lakh, ₹50 lakh and ₹6 lakh, amounting to a total of ₹1.31 crore. But it was a single clerical error that finally exposed the fraud.

Account number error

In October 2025, while examining the bond details, the complainant noticed that the ₹6 lakh bond carried an incorrect bank account number. When he tried to contact Nakka to correct it, the calls went unanswered. Concerned, he approached the bank branch on November 11, 2025. Bank staff assured him the issue would be corrected but provided no information about Nakka's whereabouts.

It wasn't until November 14, 2025, when he met the Regional Sales Manager, that the truth emerged. The bonds were fake — and not just one, all four.

The FIR alleges that the accused used the same modus operandi to cheat two other people, including a 79-year-old who allegedly lost ₹45 lakh and another resident from Mahalakshmipuram who also lost ₹45 lakh.

Rising bank impersonation

One of the key questions in the case is whether Nakka was genuinely employed with the bank, and if so, how such a large-scale fraud went undetected despite internal checks. The FIR also names "officers of the multinational bank" along with the accused, pointing to the possibility of negligence or internal lapses.

Investigators note that this incident reflects a trend in financial crimes, where fraudsters impersonate bank officials — including managers, loan officers and relationship executives — to gain a customer's trust. Such schemes involve spoofed or compromised official email IDs, access to customer-specific information, fraudulent investment documents, in-person meetings to enhance credibility and a focus on senior citizens or long-term customers who rely heavily on bank guidance.

For the complainant, who has been a customer since 2004, the incident represents a breach of trust in the systems he depended on for financial decisions.

Need stronger safeguards

Experts say the surge in such frauds highlights deep structural vulnerabilities within India's financial system. Cybercrime expert Mirza Faizan Assad notes that mandatory employee-tracking mechanisms, strict criminal liability for data leaks, rapid cyber-response cells, and nationwide customer-awareness programmes are needed. The warning comes at a time when the total value of bank frauds has sharply risen to ₹36,014 crore in 2024–25. Long-standing reviews by the Central Vigilance Commission show that forged documents, fake accounts and manipulation of customer data feature in major fraud cases.

Meanwhile, research indicates that nearly one-third of banking frauds originate internally.

Highest dog bite cases in B'luru South

Data from the five city corporations show that stray dogs bit 274 people over the past three months.

Bengaluru South reported the highest number with 94 cases, followed by 63 in West, 44 in North, 41 in East and 32 in Centre.

Officials said none of the incidents resulted in serious injuries. Within South, Zone 1 recorded 68 cases and Zone 2 logged 26. Bengaluru Centre reported 32 cases across both its zones, while East officials confirmed that four shelter dogs were involved in separate incidents.

In the North Zone, one victim who suffered multiple bites has recovered after treatment. So far, 139 stray dogs have been shifted to shelters as part of ongoing compliance with Supreme Court directions.

Corporation officials informed the Lokayukta that 7,617 establishments have been identified for relocating stray dogs by December 25. They were also instructed to ensure safety standards at shelters.

The corporations have revived a plan to provide chicken and other nutritious food to sheltered dogs—a proposal earlier shelved despite BBMP's July 2025 estimate of ₹2.88 crore. A system for two daily meals is being finalised, and tenders will be issued soon.

Costs may rise if chicken is served twice daily instead of once. **BMB**

State halves pole fee for operators

Cable operators get relief with fee cut

The state government has halved the pole-usage fee for cable operators from ₹150 to ₹75 per pole, Energy Minister K J George informed the Assembly on Monday.

Responding to a question from Congress MLA Balmees Banu, he said operators had flagged declining cable usage due to the growing shift to broadband services.

They had also sought relief as more electricity poles are needed to maintain connectivity in rural and hilly regions. Banu noted that the earlier fee was hurting operators' earnings, prompting the government to ease their financial burden. **BMB**

Attention diversion: 1 arrested

The KR Puram Police have arrested a suspected member of a notorious attention-diversion gang, recovering ₹4 lakh stolen from a city resident.

The accused, 32-year-old Raja Chinna Kumar, was traced to Trichy, Tamil Nadu, after police tracked his movements through CCTV cameras. The stolen cash was later found concealed at a friend's house in Koramangala.

Police said Raja and an accomplice had allegedly followed Sudhakar, who had withdrawn ₹5 lakh from a bank before heading to TC Palya for house construction. Sudhakar had taken out ₹50,000 from his scooter's boot to pay labourers, but the rest of the money went missing. He immediately filed a complaint.

Investigators reviewed CCTV footage from the bank to the construction site, establishing that the duo had tailed him throughout. Raja was identified and arrested from his native place. He is now in judicial custody, while police continue tracking other gang members who remain absconding. **BMB**

GBA enables full premium FAR usage

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced that property owners and developers within its jurisdiction can now fully utilise Premium FAR (Floor Area Ratio) as permitted under the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 1961. GBA Commissioner Maheshwar Rao stated that Premium FAR has been enabled through amendments to RMP 2015 Zonal Regulations, with a new Chapter 11 added under the notification issued on April 2, 2025.

Under this provision, applicants can obtain up to 40% additional FAR (0.4 of base FAR) by paying prescribed premium charges calculated according to current guidance value rates. An additional 20% FAR (0.2 of base FAR) may be availed through TDR, allowing a maximum increase of 60% over the base FAR.

Some parties had challenged the amendment in the High Court, but both petitions were dismissed on December 5, 2025, ruling in favour of GBA. With legal clearance, developers can now incorporate Premium FAR in building plans, pay applicable fees through municipal bodies, and secure approvals via the streamlined EODB software system. GBA expects annual revenue of around ₹2,000 crore from Premium FAR across five municipal corporations. **BMB**

Repeat offender arrested after jewellery theft

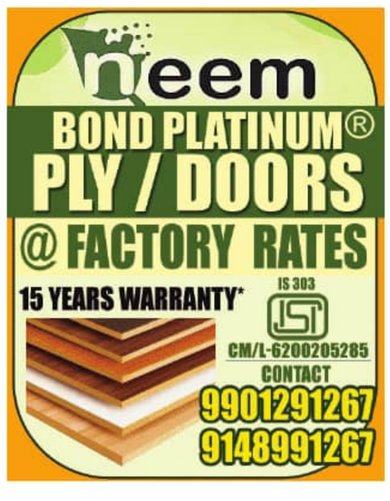
The Mahadevapura police have arrested a 33-year-old repeat offender and recovered 245 grams of stolen gold jewellery valued at ₹29.4 lakh.

The accused, Mohammed Tanzim, a fruit vendor, allegedly broke into the residence of Subin Mathew at DRDO Township and stole the valuables.

Police said Mathew had locked his house and stepped out when Tanzim, who had reportedly been observing the neighbourhood, seized the opportunity. After a complaint was filed, investigators reviewed CCTV footage and tracked Tanzim to CV Raman Nagar.

Based on his statements, officers recovered part of the stolen gold from his house, while the remaining portion was traced to a pawn shop where he had pledged it. Police said he had used the proceeds to support personal habits.

Preliminary inquiries revealed Tanzim is a habitual burglar, with similar cases registered in Mysuru and Kerala, officials added. **BMB**



Kundalahalli Lake revival gets second shot in the arm

Community-driven Kundalahalli Lake revival uses multi-pronged approach, including wetlands, digesters, gravel filters, and innovative plastic capture to secure ecological sustainability

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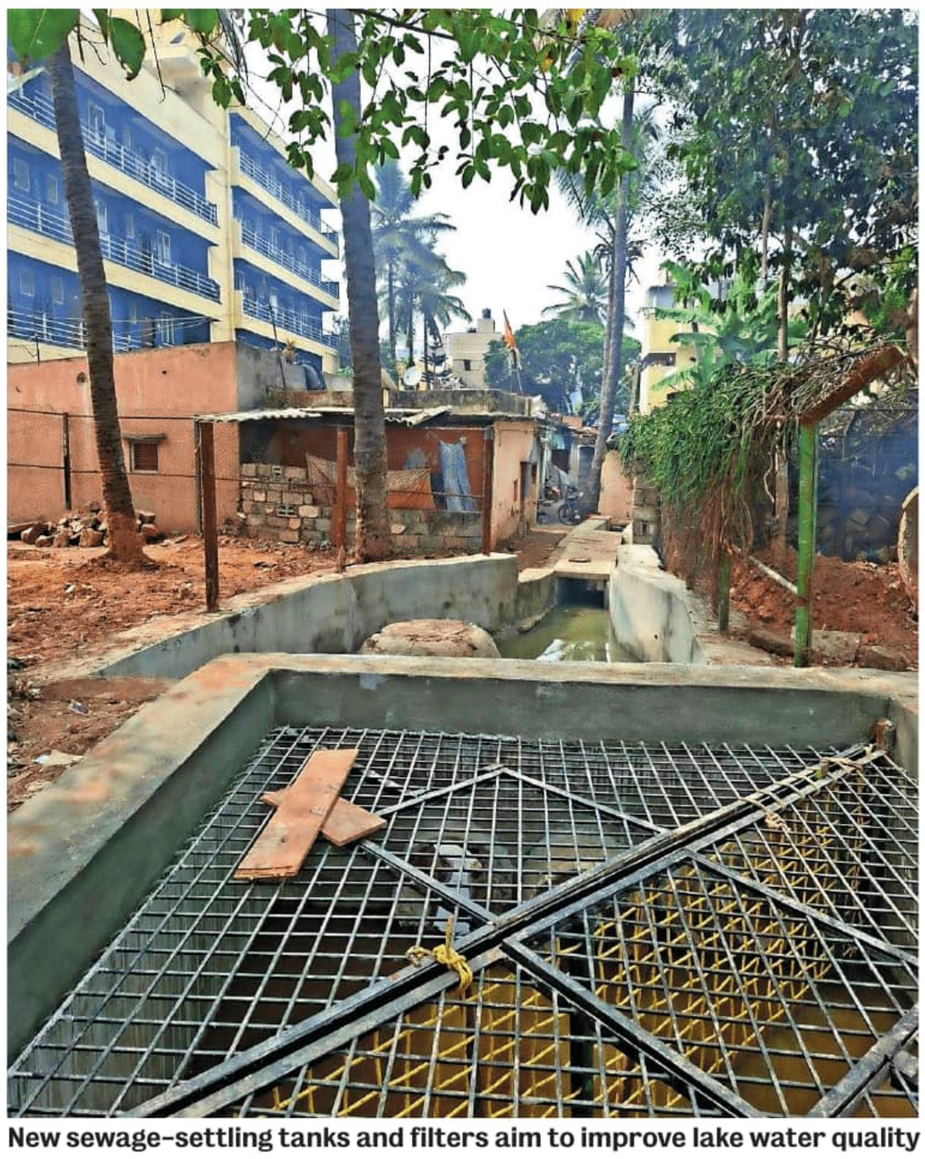
Kundalahalli Lake, a crucial neighbourhood waterbody in east Bengaluru, is seeing a renewed push towards restoration as residents and officials work together to stop sewage inflow and revive its ecology. Years after an earlier restoration collapsed under unchecked pollution, the lake is once again at the centre of a major restoration effort. The lake was restored between 2015 and 2017; however, it deteriorated over the years as sewage, especially from informal settlements around the lake, choked the wetland and treatment structures. Foul smell, fish deaths, and stagnant water were some of the issues.

The lake is now being restored by the GBA under the PPP model, with efforts focusing on preventing sewage from entering the lake in the first place. Five sewage-settling tanks corresponding to the five major inlets are being built to intercept waste before it reaches the waterbody. "A sewage-settler slows down water so that sludge can settle and decompose in place, allowing it to be removed later. We already have an installed treatment capacity of 750 kilo-liters per day. Due to the additional sewage-settling tanks, we hope to double or treble the treating capacity. At any rate, the goal is for all locally generated sewage, i.e., generated from in and around the lake from informal settlements, to be locally treated so that the lake and its downstream water remain uncontaminated," said Arvind Keerthi from Brookefield Layout Residents.

Kundalahalli's current restoration follows hard lessons from the past.



New sewage-settling tanks and filters aim to improve lake water quality

The earlier revival effort — with wetlands, diversion channels, and a treatment unit — could not withstand the sheer amount of sewage flowing into the lake. The focus now is on "robust execution" rather than trying new models. "We have now identified and captured every significant source of sewage. We are on a better footing to maintain the sewer infrastructure so that it functions indefinitely," added Keerthi.

The five tanks correspond to the five major sources of sewage input. Each tank performs the function of plastic capturing and sludge settlement. Keerthi explained that sewage treatment at Kundalahalli Lake is multi-pronged — it has a wetland, two anaerobic digesters, two planted gravel filters, etc. There are diversion channels that prevent sewage entry to the lake and direct it to the sewage treatment plants. The model is not new, but what is needed is not innovation but robust execution.

Once all five settling tanks become functional, residents expect a visible change in water quality and ecology. "The water should not smell. Fish, and hence birds, should return and thrive. People walking around can do so without the discomfort of dirt and odour. People in the informal houses can enjoy the dignity of not having to openly defecate, not having to step on their poop, not breathing the odour of sewers, and not having to see their waste ruin the environment for one and all," he said.

> **"We have identified and captured every major sewage source. With this robust execution, the sewer infrastructure can be maintained effectively, functioning indefinitely to protect the lake and prevent future pollution or ecological damage**
> – Arvind Keerthi, Resident

The new work also includes a redesigned plastic-capturing filter, created after nearly a decade of dealing with trash that clogs lake drains. Instead of a metal mesh that rusts, the central grid is made of nylon rope. It is placed diagonally inside a 10 ft × 10 ft receptacle, a design that maximises the area available to trap floating plastic and allows workers to clean it easily. Residents say the innovation will also prevent drain blockages that often lead to flooding during heavy rain.

BDA moves against speculative plot holding

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to impose a penalty of ten percent of the current guidance value on allottees in its layouts who fail to construct a house within three years of receiving their plot. In a major policy shift, the authority has also resolved not to issue sale deeds until construction is completed.

The move aims to curb speculative buying, illegal resale, and vacant plots that inconvenience residents. Only Arkavathy and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layouts have been exempted because of delays and incomplete infrastructure. BDA officials said plots allotted at concessional rates were often purchased as investments and later resold at profits. Many buyers have left sites for decades, even as land prices soared across the city. The authority now plans to enforce strict penalties, citing powers granted under its regulations and court directions that favour regularisation through fines rather than cancellation. Illegal transfers made without BDA approval will attract a separate penalty of twenty-five percent of the loss in transaction value. With guidance values rising, officials expect resistance from allottees since fines could amount to lakhs.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layout (File Photo)

— BMB

Bypass line planned to divert heavy freight

Land acquisition has begun for the proposed 6.14-kilometre Bettahalasuru–Rajanukunte railway bypass, which is planned to ease persistent freight congestion around Yelahanka Junction. Authorities have issued notices for survey numbers covering 12 acres in Bettahalasur and 17 acres in Rajanukunte, consisting of both dry and agricultural land, with more parcels expected to be added as the project progresses. The Railway Board has approved a budget of ₹248 crore for civil works, track doubling, signalling upgrades and electrical systems. Officials say the new corridor will divert freight trains travelling toward Chikkaballapur, Devanahalli, Kolar and Bangarpet, significantly reducing bottlenecks and improving capacity across the northern network.

The line will also integrate with the fourth corridor of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project between Heelalige and Rajanukunte, making passenger transfers smoother and supporting long-term expansion. Railways note that Bengaluru still lacks a dedicated goods corridor, and the bypass will help freight from Chennai port move more efficiently through Rajanukunte, Gauribidanur, Hindupur, Ballari, Bettahalasuru, the airport zone, Chikkaballapur, Chintamani and Kolar before heading toward Bangarpet. This upgrade will further enhance regional freight logistics efficiency.

— BMB

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Prompt cleanup

Chamarajpet

Civic authorities swiftly cleared blackspot at Chamarajpet, removing trash and debris after reader complaints, improving sanitation and public safety.

Pedestrian risk

Old Madras Road

Dangling TV cables on Old Madras Road are forcing pedestrians onto the busy roadway, creating serious safety hazards. Residents urge East Corporation to take immediate action and ensure safe walking paths.

Trash hazard

Thanisandra

Blocked sewage and roadside trash near a colive PG on 1st Main Road, Rachenahalli, Thanisandra, continue to pose health and hygiene concerns, with residents calling for urgent municipal intervention.

Menstrual leave order in flux, govt's side to be heard today

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday halted the enforcement of the state government's recent notification requiring industrial establishments to grant one day of paid menstrual leave every month to all women employees, including permanent, contract and outsourced staff.

Justice Jyoti M passed the interim order while issuing a notice to the government.

The order came during the hearing of petitions filed by the Bangalore Hotels Association and the management of Avirata AFL Connectivity Systems Ltd, who challenged the November 20 notification.

During arguments, counsel for the petitioners contended that the State had no authority to mandate menstrual leave through an executive order. The petitioners argued that industries are governed by comprehensive statutory frameworks—such as the Factories Act, the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, the Plantations Labour Act and others—which already lay out detailed provisions on leave, working hours and welfare measures. None of these statutes, they said, contains any requirement for menstrual leave.

IN HIGH COURT

The bench also asked whether the government had consulted industry stakeholders before issuing the notification. The petitioners' counsel submitted that no such consultation had taken place, following which the court granted the interim stay.

According to the petitioners, the State's decision imposes an additional financial burden on employers and interferes unnecessarily with internal HR policies. They have also argued that the notification violates principles of natural justice, as no preliminary draft or invitation for objections was issued.

Terming the notification unconstitutional and beyond the government's legal authority, the petitioners have sought its quashing as being violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

Following request, HC to hear State

Just hours after putting on hold the Karnataka government's notification, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday afternoon agreed to revisit the matter on Wednesday following a request from the State.

Shortly before the lunch recess, Advocate General (AG) Shashi Kiran Shetty mentioned the matter before the court. He informed the bench that the interim stay appeared to run contrary to a judgment of the Supreme Court and requested that the State be allowed to make detailed submissions before any interim relief was confirmed. The AG also told the court that he would personally appear on Wednesday to argue the matter.

The court will now hear both sides on Wednesday before deciding whether the interim stay should continue. —BMB

Grounded planes, grounded plans

Mass flight cancellations have ripple effect beyond aviation sector, affecting taxis, courier services, hotels, tourism, even local businesses, showcasing extent of interconnectivity between sectors

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Bengaluru's ongoing IndiGo cancellations have shifted from routine disruption to a clear sign of deeper operational stress. Even on Tuesday the pattern held, with 58 arrivals and 63 departures cancelled at Kempegowda International Airport. The ripple effects now stretch beyond aviation, hitting taxi services, courier networks, hotels and tourism corridors as far as Hampi, underlining how closely the state's daily economy depends on steady air operations.

IndiGo crisis has highlighted how an entire ecosystem relies on steady air operations

Cab slump

In the early days of the cancellations, cabs outside Kempegowda International Airport saw a brief spike in demand as stranded flyers scrambled for rides home. Drivers raised their fares sharply, and videos of inflated prices spread quickly. Once the initial rush eased, demand dipped. Taxi driver Basavya said the situation had flipped overnight. He explained that while the first two days saw people rushing back to the city, the demand almost disappeared after that, and he had barely received any rides in the last two days.

A regular ride from KIA to Majestic usually costs about Rs 1,200. During the chaos, drivers charged anything between Rs 1,800 and Rs 3,000. App-based taxis, which follow dynamic pricing tied to flight data, could not raise fares as sharply, but drivers say the fall in passenger numbers has still hurt them.

Hotel surge

At hotels near the airport, prices soared as stranded flyers sought emergency rooms. Several properties reportedly charged double or triple their usual tariffs. Rooms that typically cost Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000 shot up to Rs 10,000 and even Rs 11,000.

Parcel delays

The impact has travelled beyond the airport. Logistics firms say IndiGo carries a significant share of courier loads, both incoming and outgoing. When flights are cancelled in the morning, parcels are then sent via available flights, creating delays of two to three days.

A Bengaluru-based logistics manager explains, "This has created a two-way slowdown. Everything is getting redirected, which is delaying the full cycle."

Hampi hit

Tourism in Hampi, which usually sees peak footfall in December, has taken an unexpected blow. With about 80 per cent of its foreign visitors flying in through Bengaluru, Hubballi or Hyderabad, the flight cancellations have cut numbers sharply. Guides, hotel owners and transport operators report widespread booking cancellations. A senior member of the Virupaksha Temple committee says, "December is our busiest month. This time the number of visitors has dropped suddenly. Many foreign tourists cancelled their plans because they were not sure about flight connections." Hampi's small economy, dependent on seasonal travellers, is feeling the pinch. Home-stays and hotels report that almost every advance booking for the last week has been cancelled. Local guides say group tours from Europe and North India were withdrawn after the flight disruption began.

Experts believe quicker airline communication, better passenger support and fairer emergency pricing by hotels and transport operators would lessen hardship

Wider lessons

Aviation analysts say the ripple effects reflect the state's high reliance on Bengaluru airport as a travel and logistics hub. "Airlines are not just about moving passengers. A cancelled flight affects taxis, couriers, hotels, tourism, even local shops. The cancellations showed how interconnected these systems are," says V Shankar, a transport economics professor.

Need for fixes

Experts believe quicker airline communication, better passenger support and fairer emergency pricing by hotels and transport operators would lessen the hardship. Bengaluru's position as an international city, they say, depends on reliability across sectors. As year-end travel picks up, travellers and businesses hope the situation stabilises soon. For now, the IndiGo crisis has reminded the city that a delay in the skies can bring an entire ecosystem to an unexpected halt.

IN BRIEF

Citizens express discontent over new park timings

The South Bengaluru City Corporation has revised public access timings for city parks, allowing entry only from 5 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. Earlier, about 1,200 parks in the area were open from 5 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. Sources said that the change was done following public requests. However, this has sparked dissatisfaction among residents who preferred evening access after work. Many expressed frustration on social media, saying traffic makes it difficult to exercise earlier, and they had enjoyed running or walking in parks until 10 pm in the past year.

Residents also cited safety concerns linked to earlier extended timings, noting that unrestricted access until 10 pm had led to increased alcohol consumption, littering, and disturbances near the parks. While the revision addresses public complaints, it has disappointed evening park-goers who relied on the late access for recreational activities.—BMB

Thailand emerges as major drug pipeline to K'taka

Thailand has become the largest source of hydro ganja entering Karnataka, replacing earlier routes from Africa and neighbouring countries. In just two months, customs officers at Kempegowda International Airport caught 26 Bangkok travellers carrying 1.60 quintals of hydro ganja worth Rs 112.2 crore. Over eleven months, the airport recorded a total seizure of five quintals, including 1.5 quintals from Thailand alone. Police arrested a couple in Mahalakshmi Layout for trafficking Rs 18.65 crore worth of the same drug. Officers say traffickers lure carriers with free trips to Thailand, using air cargo, ships and postal routes to push contraband into the state. So far, 83 people have been arrested.

Synthetic drugs are also entering Karnataka in large volumes from Delhi, with police suspecting a production unit operating in the national capital. —BMB

Demands: Let go of 70:30 promotion ratio, give 30 paid holidays in a year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another affected police official told Bangalore Mirror that the 70:30 promotion ratio is the primary reason that many Civil ASIs, despite serving in the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate for nearly 30 years and holding the ASI rank for over six years, have still not been promoted to PSI. He explained that, in most police departments across India, promotion from Head Constable to Assistant Sub-Inspector typically requires around five years of service, usually through departmental examinations. "Although Karnataka has reduced this eligibility period to four years, the department continues to follow a 70:30 recruitment ratio, which has significantly slowed down promotions," he said.

Nobody listening to requests

The police officials have repeatedly brought this matter to the attention of the government and the department through the ministers/MLAs and Legislative Council members and they have submitted requests to revise the 70:30 ratio followed for promotion in the department to a 50:50 percent ratio. "Why is the government not considering this matter seriously? Different departments in the state follow the rule of 50:50 percent for the promotion of staff, so why is this rule not being applied to the police department?" an official asked. On December 1, a group of police officials submitted a letter to the DG&IG, Director General and Inspector General of Police urging a revision in the current promotion policy.

In the letter, officials highlighted that since 2003, recruitment for police constables in Karnataka has been conducted through the CET (Common Entrance Test) system. Many of those recruited, nearly 1,000, are graduates and have cleared departmental examinations. Despite serving the department for nearly 30 years and spending the past six years in the ASI role, they claimed their career progression remains stagnant, unlike in other departments where a 50:50 policy allows for better promotional opportunities.

Several police personnel have claimed that despite submitting petitions multiple times, including appeals addressed to senior police, the Director General of Police (DGP), and even members of the state cabinet, no concrete action has followed. Some officers confirmed that they had personally met the Home Minister and other elected representatives seeking intervention, but their requests received only verbal assurances.

Police officials pointed out the indifference in holidays granted, stating that Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) and Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) serving in the Karnataka Police Department are currently receiving only 15 days of paid holiday compensation for working on gazetted holidays, despite being required to remain on duty during these periods.

In comparison, personnel from the Fire and Prison Departments are entitled to 30 days of paid holiday compensation for working on gazetted holidays. However, police officials who are engaged in continuous public service round the clock, 24/7 are being granted only half of that benefit, they said.

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I, Heena Kousar, R/O No. 82, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Rajendranagar, Bangalore – 560047, have changed my name to Heena for all purposes.

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I Ganapati Hegde S/o Mahabaleshwar Hegde R/o No 56,1st Main,6th Cross, Ittamadu Extn, Bsk, 3rd Stage,B'lore-560085 have changed my name to Ganapati Mahabaleshwar Hegde for all purposes.

I SALIMA w/o Allha Bakash R/@ No 21/3 3rd Main 3rd Cross Shamanna Garden Bengaluru 560026 had changed my name to SALEEMUNNISA for all purposes

I, Khalid Baig Anwar Baig S/o Anwar Baig, R/o Bait Al Hanun, Opp Zeeshan Mosque, Veersagara, Tumkur have changed my name to Khalid Baig for all purposes.

I, Heena, R/O No. 82, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, Rajendranagar, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560034, have changed my minor daughter's name from Sharia Kousar to Syeda Sharia Kousar for all purposes.

I, Balaji Ranganatha S/o Ranganatha Murugesh R/o # Athulyam No-92, 4th Cross, KNS Ojas, Suiliker Post,Chu - denapura,B'lore-560060 have changed my name to Balaji Ranganath for all purposes.

I, Gruthi Shivashankar Reddy R/o 03, 7th main, 20th cross, NS Palya, Btm 2nd stage, BG road, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to Gruthi. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Anjana Suresh Ullagaddi D/o Suresh R/o No-51/6, Rainbow Haven, Srinidhi Layout, JP nagar, 7th phase, Konanakunte B'lore-560062 have changed my name to Anjana Ullegaddi for all purposes.

THIS is to notify the public that I, Anita Karat Joshua/ Anitha Karat D/o. Late. Mr. K.P.Menon and Mrs. Bhagya Leela Karat aged about 50 years, residing at #39, Pottery Road, Richards town Bangalore 560005, have changed my name to Anita Karat for all purposes vide an Affidavit, on e-stamp paper bearing Certificate No. IN-KA15613311102642X, dated 6th December 2025.

I, RAMEGOWDA GANADAHOLLE SIDDEGOWDA, R/O. A 201, Mithuna White Water Apartment, Srirampura Cross, Sriramapura Main Road, Near JNCASR, Jakkur, Bangalore - 560064, have changed my name to RAMEGOWDA.

I Saranya Bharanidharan D/O, Manohar R/o No 104, 5th Cross, Kadirappa Road, Doddi Gunta, Cox Town Bangalore - 560005 have changed my name to Saranya Manohar as per ID proofs for all future purposes with immediate effect.

I, DAVALASAHEB residing at No 637, 15th Cross, Soundarya Nagar, Sidedahalli, Bengaluru – 560073. I have changed my name from DAVALASAHEB to DAVALASAHEB HUNASHIMARAD. Vide affidavit dated 5/12/2025 sworn before notary. N MAHESH Bengaluru.

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I, Athika Iqbal, R/O No. 731, Pillanna Garden, 3rd Stage, Kadugondanahalli, Bengaluru – 560045, have changed my name to Aathka Iqbal Ahmed for all purposes.

I, Thalange Arati Shivasharan W/o Veeresh S Minajagi C/o #207, F Block Ganaridhi Apts rajarajeshwari layout, naagadevanhalli,banglore south B'lore-560056 have changed my name to Arathi Veeresh Minajagi.

WE, Mr. DAVALASAHEB HUNASHIMARAD and Mrs. MAJABEEN residing at No. 637, 15th Cross, Soundarya Nagar, Sidedahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru – 560073. We have changed my Son's name from MOHAMMAD ZAHID HUNESHIMARAD to MOHAMMAD ZAHID D HUNESHIMARAD. Vide affidavit dated 05/12/2025 sworn before notary. N Mahesha Bengaluru

I, Sadrulla Saheb Mohammed, S/O Sattar Sab C K, R/O No. 1197, Abdul Azeez Road, New Town, Bangarpet, Kolar – 563114, have changed my name to Mohammed Sadrulla for all purposes.

I, Rajashekar, R/O No. 6 & 7, 95/2 B-3, Old No. 180/2, Swamy Residency, Konappana Agrahara, Bengaluru – 560100, have changed my name to Rajashekar Gangadharaswamy Bhusanurmath for all purposes.

I, SUNIL SANTYAG DIAS (Old Name), S/o. Santyag Salvador Dias, R/at Flat No.2410, 'C' Block, 2nd Phase, Prestine Grove, K. Narayanapura, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to SUNIL DIAS (New Name), vide affidavit dt:06.12.2025 before Notary K.V. Mani Bangalore

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ASSAM MEGHALAYA/ARUNACHAL 8/14* DAYS DEC: 19
PURI BHUVANESHWAR KONARK 5 DAYS DEC: 23, 26 JAN: 6, 20
SOUTH INDIA 11*/9 DAYS DEC: 12*, 12* JAN: 16*, 20, 27* 30
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HEALTH TIP: Eating locally-grown fruits supports immunity, enhances nutrient absorption, and keeps hormones stable

Whey protein intake should be matched with a rigorous workout for optimum results

FOREVER CHEMICALS, FOREVER WORRY

PFAS in pregnant women's drinking water puts their babies at higher risk, study finds

When pregnant women drink water that comes from wells downstream of sites contaminated with PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," the risks to their babies' health substantially increase, a new study found. These risks include the chance of low birth weight, preterm birth and infant mortality.

Even more troubling, our team of economic researchers and hydrologists found that PFAS exposure increases the likelihood of extremely low-weight and extremely preterm births, which are strongly associated with lifelong health challenges.

What wells showed us about PFAS risks

PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, have captured the attention of the public and regulators in recent years for good reason. These man-made compounds persist in the environment, accumulate in human bodies and may cause harm even at extremely low concentrations.

Most current knowledge about the reproductive effects of PFAS comes from laboratory studies on animals such as rats, or from correlations between PFAS levels in human blood and health outcomes.

Both approaches have important limitations. Rats and humans have different bodies, exposures and living conditions. And independent factors, such as kidney functioning, may in some cases be the true drivers of health problems.

We wanted to learn about the effects of PFAS on real-world human lives in a way that comes as close as possible to a randomized experiment. Intentionally exposing people to PFAS would be unethical, but the environment gave us a natural experiment of its own.

We looked at the locations of wells that supply New Hampshire residents with drinking water and how those locations related to birth outcomes.

We collected data on all births in the state from 2010 to 2019 and zoomed in on the 11,539 births that occurred within 3.1 miles (5 kilometers) of a site known to be contaminated with PFAS and where the mothers were served by public water systems. Some contamination came from industries, other from landfills or firefighting activities.

PFAS from contaminated sites slowly migrate down through soil into groundwater, where they move downstream with the groundwater's flow.

This created a simple but powerful contrast: pregnant women whose homes received water from wells that were downstream, in groundwater terms, from the PFAS source were likely to have been exposed to PFAS from the contaminated site, but those who received water from wells that were upstream of those sites should not have been exposed.

Using outside data on PFAS testing, we confirmed that PFAS levels were indeed greater in "downstream" wells than in "upstream" wells.

The locations of utilities' drinking water wells are sensitive data that are not publicly available, so the women likely would not have known whether they were exposed. Prior to the state beginning to test for PFAS in 2016, they may not have even known the nearby site had PFAS.

PFAS connections to the riskiest births

We found what we believe is clear evidence of harm from PFAS exposure.

Women who received water from wells downstream of PFAS-contaminated sites had on average a 43% greater chance of having a low-weight baby, defined as under 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams) at birth, than those receiving water from upstream wells with no other PFAS sources nearby. Those downstream had a 20% greater chance of a preterm birth, defined as before 37 weeks, and a 191% greater chance of the infant not surviving its first year.

Per 100,000 births, this works out to 2,639 additional low-weight births, 1,475 additional preterm births and 611 additional deaths in the first year of life.

Looking at the cases with the lowest birth weights and earliest preterm births, we found that the women receiving water from wells downstream from PFAS sources had a 180% greater chance of a birth under 2.2 pounds (1,000 grams) and a 168% greater chance of a birth before 28 weeks than those with upstream wells. Per 100,000 births, that's about 607 additional extremely low-weight births and 466 additional extremely preterm births.

Treating PFAS

There is still much to learn about the risks from PFAS and how to avoid harm.

We studied the health effects of PFOA and PFOS, two "long-chain" species of PFAS that were the most widely used types in the U.S. They are no longer produced in the U.S., but they are still present in soil and groundwater. Future work could focus on newer, "short-chain" PFAS, which may have different health impacts.

PFAS are in many types of products, and there are many routes for exposure, including through food. Effective treatment to remove PFAS from water is an area of ongoing research, but the long-chain PFAS we studied can be removed from water with activated carbon filters, either at the utility level or inside one's home.

Our results indicate that pregnant women have special reason to be concerned about exposure to long-chain PFAS through drinking water. If pregnant women suspect their drinking water may contain PFAS, we believe they should strongly consider installing water filters that can remove PFAS and then replacing those filters on a regular schedule.

(By Derek Lemoine, Ashley Lange and Bo Guo, University of Arizona, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Screening for depression under govt primary healthcare may save up to Rs 482 bn: Study

Integrating universal screening for depression in India's primary healthcare system could be expected to generate a net savings of Rs 291 billion to Rs 482 billion, a study published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia has estimated.

Researchers, including those from the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh and National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, said the savings is equivalent to 0.19 per cent to 0.32 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

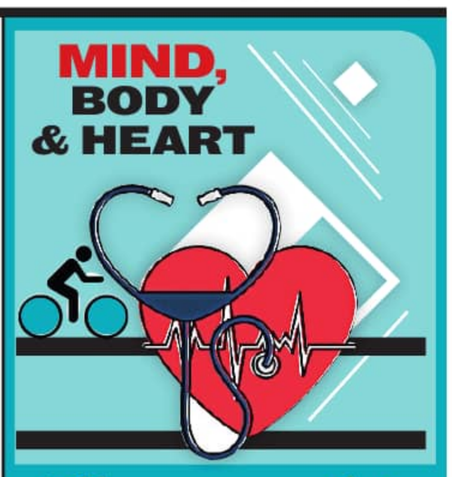
People aged 20 and older would be cheaper to screen than those above 30, the study found.

The researchers also noted that the screening programme could save money if at least 60 per cent of patients receiving treatment go through public healthcare facilities.

Current practices involve 'opportunistic diagnoses' -- in which diagnosis is incidental, such as through tests done for other reasons -- and managing patients showing symptoms of the mental disorder.

Cashless healthcare services related to 22 procedures of the mental disorder specialty, including intellectual disability, schizophrenia and autism, are available to those eligible under the health benefit package of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), according to a March 2025 statement by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The study indicates "substantial public health and economic benefits" of integrating population-based depression screening into the primary healthcare system, the researchers said. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Good hair habits

1. Get Regular Trims
Regular trims help prevent split ends and breakage, leading to fuller and healthier-looking hair. By keeping your hair trimmed, you promote healthy growth and reduce the risk of hair falling flat.

2. Keep Your Hair And Scalp Clean
Shampoo hair regularly to remove dirt and grime. Remember to use a gentle shampoo; harsh shampoos can strip hair of natural oils, leading to dryness and breakage.

3. Don't Overdo It
Avoid over-washing as it strips your hair of natural oils, leading to dryness and breakage. Washing hair twice or thrice a week is enough, depending on your lifestyle.

4. Condition Hair After Shampooing
Conditioning replenishes moisture and nutrients in your hair strands, keeping them soft and strong. It also prevents dryness and breakage. Use a leave-in conditioner to provide extra moisture and protection. It will also keep your hair from tangling and breaking.

5. Be Gentle With Wet Hair
Use microfibre towels to dry your hair instead of a regular towel; they are gentler and reduce friction, minimising breakage and frizz. Avoid rubbing and pulling hair as wet hair is fragile and prone to breakage.

6. Use A Wide-Toothed Comb
Never brush or comb hair when it is wet; brush gently when dry to reduce damage and split ends. A wide-toothed comb is gentler, reducing breakage and tangles, especially in the case of curly or fragile hair.

7. Avoid Heat Styling
Regular use of heat styling tools can damage hair by causing dryness and breakage. Minimise the use of heat styling to preserve your hair's natural moisture and strength.

8. Avoid Tight Hairstyles
Tight hairstyles stress your hair follicles, leading to breakage. Stick to loose styles that reduce tension on the strands and follicles, promoting healthier growth.

—Femina

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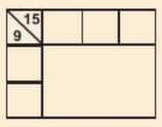
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

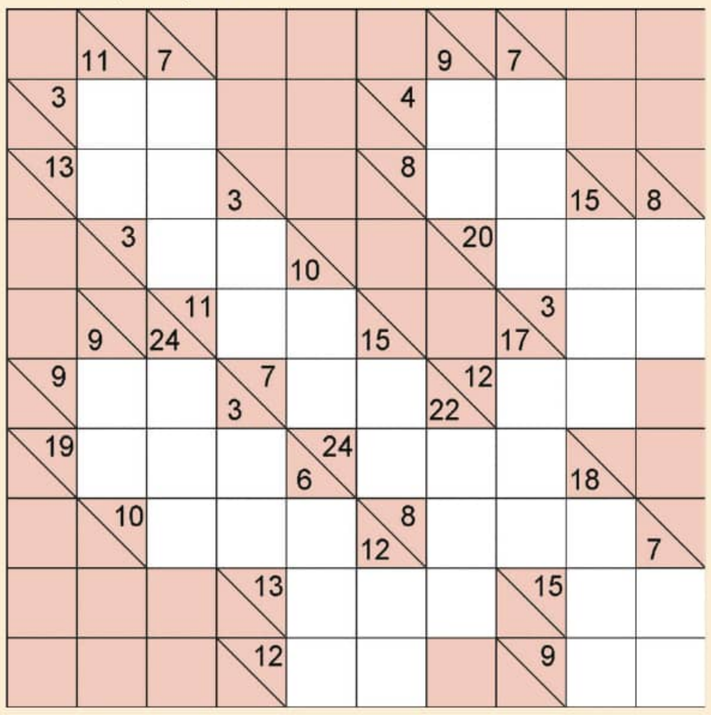
Water tank has a diameter of 1.2m & depth of 1.5m. How much water it can store (in Litres)? [π=3.14]

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Linemaro

Your hand looks heavy. Let me hold it for you

Mindchow

It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them

Joke of the day

Why did the witches' team lose the cricket game? Their bats flew away

Loop

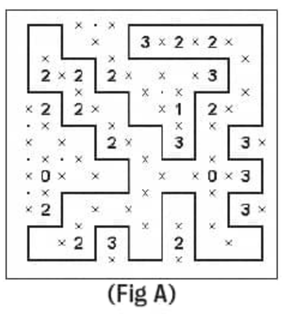
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

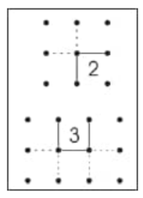
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

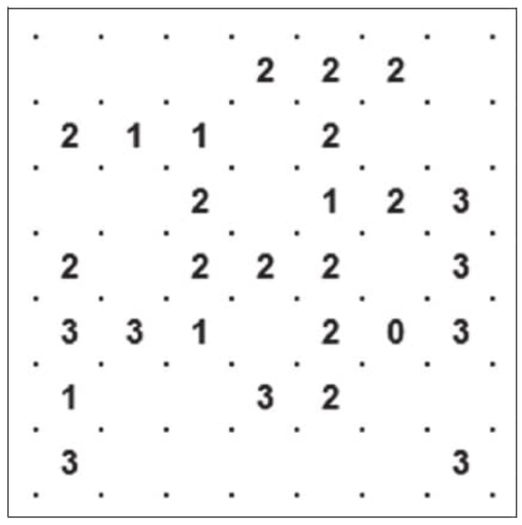
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



SudokuChallenge

		6		3	5			2
3						7		
	8			6		5	9	
					6		4	
6	9			4			5	8
	5		7					
	1	9		5			6	
		3						9
8			4	7		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

4 4 5 7

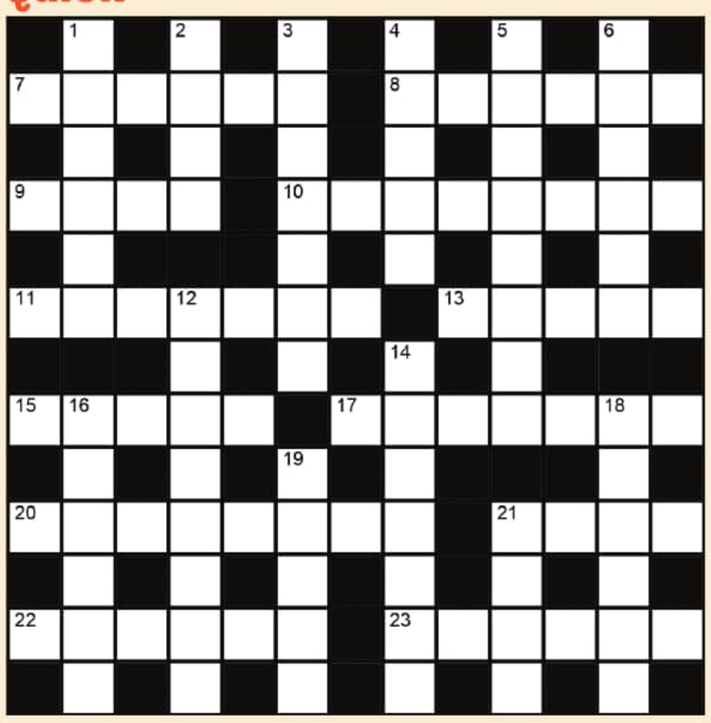
Medium = 2

1 4 4 6

Hard = 27

2 2 3 9

Quick



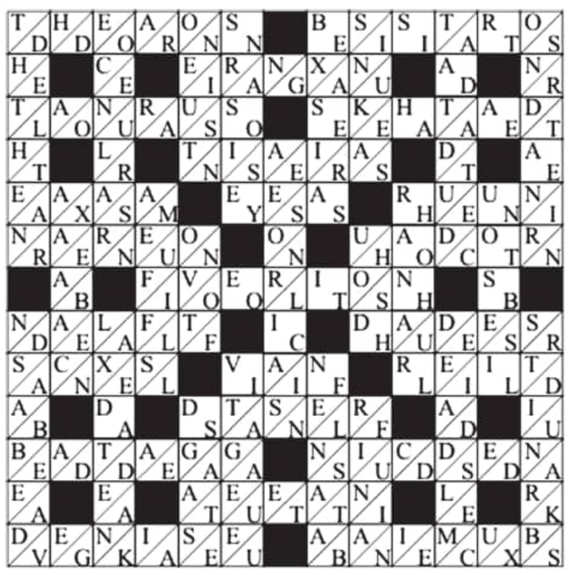
ACROSS

7 One stroke under par (6)
8 It may be encashed in a bank (6)
9 Storage containers (4)
10 Sound reduction device (8)
11 Considering, judging or viewing (7)
13 Wilt (5)
15 Porcelain (5)
17 Santa's reindeer (7)
20 Sentimental fondness (4,4)
21 Averse to work (4)
22 European country (6)
23 Mr Schwarzenegger of Hollywood (6)

DOWN

1 Limited, not endless (6)
2 Fusses (4)
3 Hiring out for a long period (7)
4 La ____: Milan opera house (5)
5 Italian artist ____ da Vinci (8)
6 American dinner jacket (6)
12 Canadian province (8)
14 Container for sweeping up (7)
16 Ex-Windies skipper Carl ___ (6)
18 Baffle or confound (6)
19 A steamed dosa (5)
21 Queue (4)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				X
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 `Scars; 6 Heart; 7 Tux an; 8 Ament; 9 Kerbs

DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 An ere; 3 At art; 4 Hanks; 5 X sets

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy's arm is not showing. 2. Woman's collar is missing. 3. Oven door handle is missing. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Box flap is missing. 6. Boy's mouth is different.

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the blank and completes the sequence?

D P B N ☐

Riddler

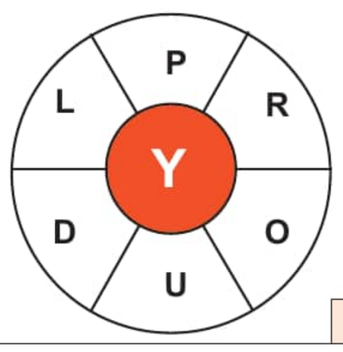
Find the synonymous word for each word in the following pair. For each pair, the words you find should rhyme with each other, the first word being an adjective and the second a noun. Some of these are easy, others are more challenging. For example: angry father= mad dad; Depressed circus entertainer Not living center of a pencil Cool film Not soft protector

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS T

YDZ YGQOY JW YDZ HFFJUZFY HO YDZ EHVG'O NJOY QOZWQE YJJE.



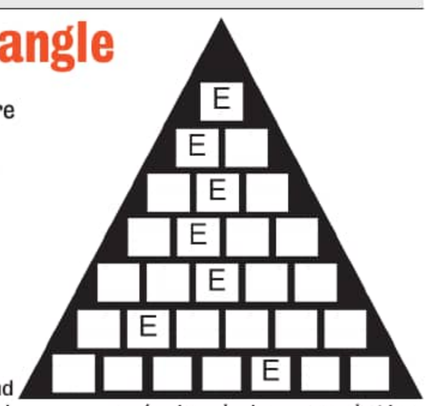
Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **06** Outstanding

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 Printer's measure
3 Catch
4 Numerical suffix
5 Occurrence
6 Aired
7 Obvious



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS TO DECIDE IF YOU ARE GOING TO MARRY ME OR NOT!!
-SIX -FIVE -FOUR -THREE- TWO - ONE!
WELL?
HOW ABOUT GOIN' TO THE MOVIES?
'AT'S A PRETTY DRESS!
HOW'S YER MOTHER?
GULP!
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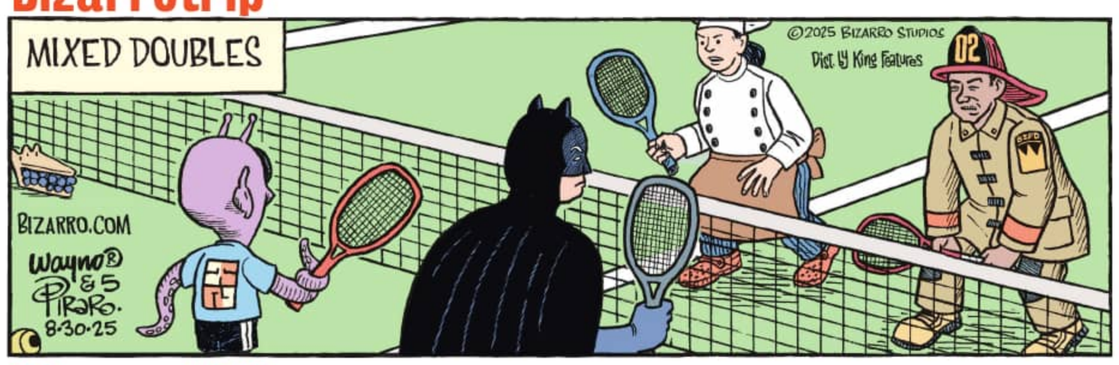
popeye.com
3-11

Bizarrotrip

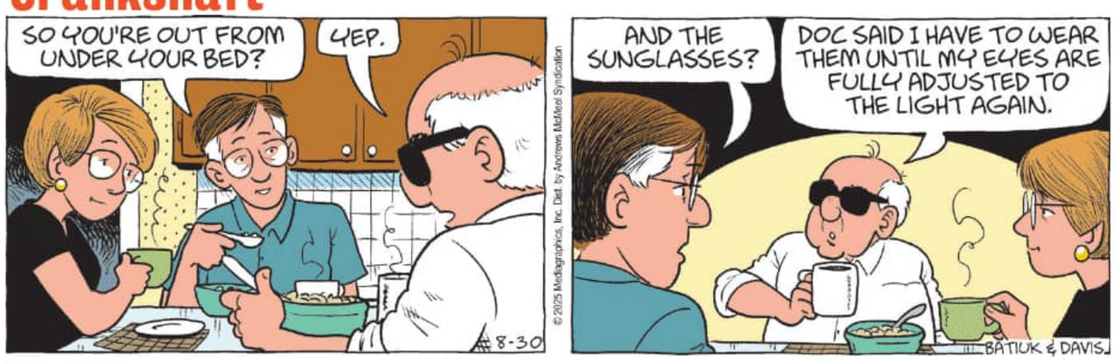


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

TWO HOUSES, BOTH ALIKE IN DIGNITY, IN FAIR VERONA, WHERE WE LAY OUR SCENE.
BUT, SOFT! WHAT LIGHT THROUGH YONDER WINDOW BREAKS? IT IS THE EAST, AND JULIET IS THE SUN.
THUS WITH A KISS, I DIE.
FOR NEVER WAS A STORY OF MORE WOE THAN THIS OF JULIET AND HER ROMEO.
YAY!
WOO!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


SO YOU'RE OUT FROM UNDER YOUR BED?
YEP.
AND THE SUNGLASSES?
DOC SAID I HAVE TO WEAR THEM UNTIL MY EYES ARE FULLY ADJUSTED TO THE LIGHT AGAIN.
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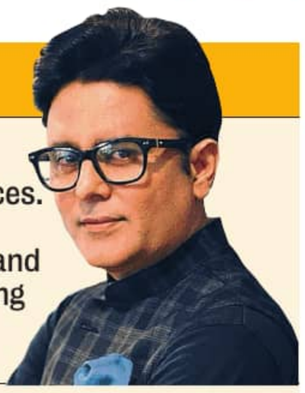
8-30
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Guard against overspending driven by the desire for exotic experiences. While Sagittarius loves to acquire souvenirs and knowledge abroad, today demands a return to budget reality. Review recent purchases and look for hidden value. A quiet evening spent researching future learning opportunities will feel far more rewarding than an impulse buy. Ground your expansive energy.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

You'll feel eager to please today, channel that energy into work to secure progress. Enjoy a little indulgence, but balance it with exercise. Finances look stable; spend wisely and intentionally.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Motivation flows strongly today. Strengthen relationships at work and home, they'll enhance success and harmony. Channel your drive into self-care and personal growth for a fulfilling and productive day overall.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Let your quirky side shine fearlessly today. Don't worry about judgment, authenticity attracts the right people. Ignore negativity, stay confident, and enjoy being unapologetically yourself.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Everything aligns beautifully today. Work, relationships, and personal goals flow harmoniously. Opportunities are within reach, trust timing and take action confidently. The universe supports your every move right now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Positivity transforms everything today. Dismiss doubt, things align in your favour. Respect, financial stability, and romantic progress surround you. Stay optimistic; your energy magnetises success.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Experiment freely today, step beyond routine. Trying something new reveals untapped potential and hidden passions. Embrace curiosity; new experiences bring joy, growth, and maybe even a fresh lifelong interest.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Nostalgia guides you today. Revisiting memories reconnects you with cherished people and possibilities. Old friendships or opportunities may resurface, embrace them. The past could unlock success in your present journey.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Flexibility defines your success today. Adapt to others' ideas with patience and understanding. Respect differing views instead of insisting on control, cooperation strengthens bonds and makes teamwork flow smoothly.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Self-doubt may surface today, don't let it control you. Focus on inner growth, meditate, and practise self-love. As confidence rebuilds, you'll feel at ease in every social and professional setting.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Progress feels slow, but persistence will pay off. Don't lose hope, each step builds strength. Patience ensures lasting success, so stay grounded and trust the timing of your journey.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Watch your temper today. Words spoken in haste could hurt others. Avoid conflicts and unnecessary involvement. Take quiet time alone instead, peaceful reflection restores clarity and emotional balance.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Health takes top priority today. Eat well, move your body, and focus on self-care. Financial worries ease later, wellbeing first, prosperity follows naturally once your energy aligns.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Volume=area ×depth
Volume=(π×d²/4) ×1.5
V=(π ×1.2²/4) ×1.5 = 1.6965 m³
Volume = 1696.5d m³ = 1696.5 litters

STRIKE OUT

T	H	O	R	N	S		B	I	S	T	R	O		
E		C		E	A	G	A	N		A		R		
T	A	U	R	U	S		S	K	A	T	E	D		
H		L		T		S	A	R	S		T		A	
E	X	A	M		Y	E	A		R	E	N	I		
R	E	R	U	N		O		H	A	D	D	O	N	
B		F	O	O	L	I	S	H		D	U	B		
D	E	L	F	T		I		D	U	D	E	S		
A	C	E	S		V	A	N		L	I	L	T		
B		A		S	A	N	E	R		A		I		
B	A	D	E	G	G		S	U	D	D	E	N		
E		E		T	U	T	T	I		E		K		
M	E	A	N		T		A		N		D			
U		N		T		A		X						
R	A	T	H	E										
C	R	A	S	S										

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

Z. Letters advance in steps of 12, returning to the start of the alphabet after Z.

RIDDLER

Depressed circus entertainer = Down Clown, Not living center of a pencil = Dead Lead, Cool film= Groovy Movie & Not soft protector= Hard Guard

SUDOKU

8	6	2	4	7	9	1	3	5
5	4	3	6	2	1	8	7	9
7	1	9	3	5	8	2	6	4
4	5	8	7	9	3	6	2	1
6	9	7	1	4	2	3	5	8
2	3	1	5	8	6	9	4	7
1	8	4	2	6	7	5	9	3
3	2	5	9	1	4	7	8	6
9	7	6	8	3	5	4	1	2

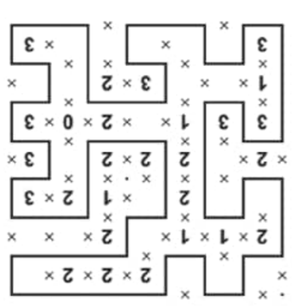
ALPHA TRIANGLE

E, En, Net, Teen, Event, Vented, Evident.

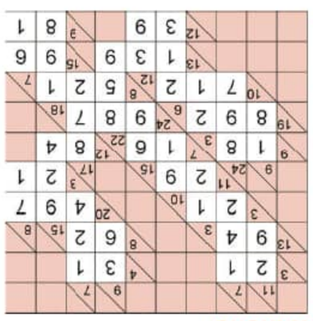
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 7–4 + 5 = 12
Medium
4 + 4–6 x 1 = 2
Hard
9 x 3 x 2 / 2 = 27

LOOP



KAKURO



BULL'S EYE

dourly, duly, ploy, PROUDLY, ropy, your

QUOTE UNCODE

The trust of the innocent is the liar's most useful tool.

FAST FIVE

B	E	R	K	S
M	E	A	N	T
U	N	T	A	X
R	A	T	H	E
C	R	A	S	S

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King of style — Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan made it to the list of 67 Most Stylish People of 2025 released by the New York Times

JUST MIXING IT UP

Kriti reveals why she chose two contrasting roles one after the other

Kriti Sanon is preparing for yet another major release with the much-awaited 'Cocktail 2.' After winning hearts with her recent film 'Tere Ishk Mein' alongside Dhanush, Kriti has now opened up about why she immediately said yes to the sequel of the 2012 cult romantic drama. The upcoming film features Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna in key roles, adding to the excitement surrounding the fresh cast and storyline.

Talking to Variety, Kriti confessed that the emotional intensity of 'Tere Ishk Mein' took a heavy toll on her. Opening up about her mental space, she said, "Tere Ishk Mein was so emotionally draining, it had completely emptied me emotionally. I felt I needed something light and fun, and that's when Cocktail came my way." The actress added that the tone of the film instantly connected with what she was looking for at this point in her career.

Kriti shared the importance of switching between dramatically different roles to avoid emotional burnout. "I thought, 'This is it. This is the space I want to be in.' It's also nice to play characters that are poles apart, to not get too much of the load on you emotionally, because going back-to-back with deeply layered roles can take a toll on you," she said.

Meanwhile, 'Tere Ishk Mein' continues to be praised for its gripping narrative and powerful performances. The story follows the passionate and difficult journey of Shankar and Mukti, whose college romance turns into heartbreak and chaos when destiny pulls them apart.

— ETimes

Kolla Hema cleared in 2024 rave party case

Actress Kolla Hema released an emotional video on Tuesday after the Karnataka High Court cleared her of all charges in the 2024 rave party case. In the video, she said that her mother had died, unable to bear the distress caused by the case.

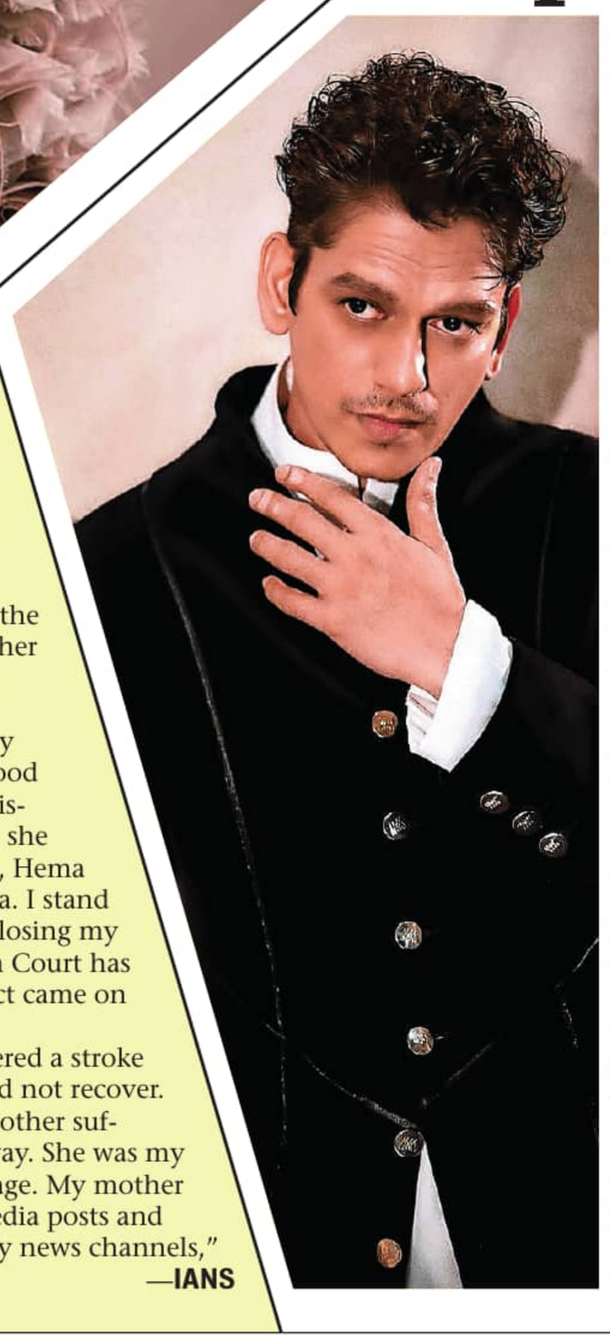
"Carrying that pain in my heart, I want to share this good news. The High Court has dismissed the case," she said as she broke down. In her message, Hema said, "Hi all, I am your Hema. I stand before you with the grief of losing my mother. The Karnataka High Court has quashed my case. The verdict came on November 3..."

She said her mother suffered a stroke days after the verdict and did not recover.

"In the meantime, my mother suffered a stroke and passed away. She was my strength and source of courage. My mother could not bear the social media posts and the media trial carried out by news channels," Hema said.

—IANS

Needed to press pause



Vijay Varma's return to the screen with 'Gustaakh Ishq' drew instant attention, especially after his noticeably long absence from new releases. The actor recently clarified that the pause wasn't due to a shortage of work but rather the relentless spotlight on his personal life, which led him to step away for a while.

Varma reflected on a time when public attention had drifted away from his work and focused instead on his personal life. The actor noted that, similar to Jaya Bachchan's commentary on the unwanted nature of paparazzi culture, the constant buzz around him had turned suffocating. Speaking to Hindustan Times, Varma said, "The work wasn't coming out, so the conversation was about everything else", hinting at the phase when his relationship with Tamannaah Bhatia was the talk of the town.

He opened up about his desire to find peace amid the chaos of fame. The actor said that he would have liked complete silence, but that's not possible, pointing out that even after avoiding press interactions for over a year, the attention never truly faded. Varma added, "I have not spoken to the press since IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack, not given a single interview, yet the presence is all over and it's beyond my control... I did need a gap. But that's something I didn't have control over."

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Pursuit of passion

Actor-director Aryan Tejas, a hardcore fan of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar, is gearing up for the release of his second movie Naanu Karunakara. Tejas, who hails from Hassan, has been associated with the Kannada film industry for quite a long time. He has worked as an assistant cameraman and assistant director, in addition to acting in a few TV serials. With limited opportunities to establish himself as a hero, he stepped away from Kannada films and returned to his hometown. However, his passion for the silver screen eventually brought him back to Bengaluru, where he now not only plays the lead but also handles the megaphone for Naanu Karunakara.

"I wrote the script for Naanu Karunakara before the lockdown was announced. Producer Santosh has agreed to bankroll this movie. The film highlights the importance of bonding between father and son and of love between husband and wife. Post-production works of the movie are completed. We are planning to release the movie on February 6," said Tejas.

Alpha teaser out

The teaser of Alpha was unveiled by Lahari Velu at MMB Legacy on Saturday. Hemanth Kumar from Malur debuts as a hero with this movie supported by Anand Kumar under the LA Productions banner. Vijay, known for Geetha and Gurudeva Hoysala, is the director. The movie has the tagline - Men Love Vengeance.

Vijay said Hemanth was introduced to him by dialogue writer Masti. "I appreciate Hemanth Kumar's passion for movies. He evinced interest in making a movie if I had a good script. He said that he does not want to act in a love story. I narrated the script of Alpha to him and he liked it. Alpha went on floors in March 2025 and its shooting is in the final stages," said Vijay.

The director said that they are aiming to release the movie in February. "It is an action thriller that is also emotional. The movie revolves around three fathers and three sons. How children avenge those who trouble their fathers is what Alpha is all about. Hemanth has acted like an experienced actor," the director said.